

**City of Reading City Council
Regular Business Meeting
Monday, March 11, 2013**

Council President Francis G. Acosta called the meeting to order.

Council Randy Corcoran gave the invocation.

All present pledged to the flag.

ATTENDANCE

Council President Acosta
Councilor Corcoran, District 1
Councilor Goodman-Hinnershitz, District 2
Councilor Sterner, District 3
Councilor Marmarou, District 4
Councilor Reed, District 5
Councilor Waltman, District 6
City Auditor D. Cituk
City Solicitor C. Younger
Managing Director C. Snyder
City Clerk L. Kelleher
Mayor V. Spencer

PROCLAMATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

There were no proclamations or commendations issued at this meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Council President Acosta announced that three citizens were registered to address Council; one on agenda matters and two on non-agenda matters. He inquired if any Councilor objected to suspending the rule requiring non-agenda comment at the end of the meeting. As no one objected the rule requiring non-agenda comment at the end of the meeting was suspended. Council President Acosta reminded the citizens registered to speak about the remaining public speaking rules.

Dave Opperman, of Opperman Lane, Birdsboro, was not present.

Renee Dietrich, representing the Library Board, stated that she and the members of the Library Board are pleased that City Council recognizes the need to increase funding to support the Library. She noted that the City's contribution has declined by \$450K since 2010. She stated that the Library Board has been closing this gap by using \$350K annually from its

reserve fund, which will be depleted in approximately two years. She noted that she recently learned that the Library Tax referendum cannot move forward unless a group of citizens undertake the petition process, which is problematic. She suggested instead that the City consider increasing the amount they contribute to the Library services.

Bonita Cook, of Laureldale, stated that she is a moderator at Abilities in Motion. She noted the need to correct three intersections that have public safety issues: 2nd and Penn, 2nd and Washington, and Front and Washington. She stated that handicapped individuals have difficulty crossing at these intersections and noted the need for improvements to increase safety.

Andy Moore, of Jameson Place, thanked the City's elected officials for their work. He described his interaction with a member of Council after the conclusion of a past Council meeting.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA & MINUTES

Council President Acosta called Council's attention to the minutes for the February 25th Regular Meeting of Council and the agenda for this meeting. He noted the need to amend tonight's agenda by withdrawing Bill No. 14-2013, the Library Tax referendum.

Councilor Reed moved, seconded by Councilor Marmarou, to approve the minutes from the February 25th Regular Meeting and the agenda, as amended, including the legislation listed under the consent agenda for this meeting. The motion was approved unanimously.

Consent Agenda

A. Award of Contract - to the Institute for Local Self Reliance, 2001 S Street NW, Suite 570, Washington, DC 20009, a non-profit corporation. The services will be paid by the Solid Waste, Sewer and General Fund. In no event will the total billings by the contractor exceed \$38,325.00 (**Admin Services**)

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

Mayor Spencer read his report distributed to Council at the meeting, as summarized below.

- Listed the roundtables with businesses arranged by the Chamber of Commerce
- Described his presentation to students at Northeast Middle School
- Listed his attendance at neighborhood meetings and other events

AUDITOR'S REPORT

City Auditor Cituk read the report distributed to Council. In summary:

- 2012 District Court Summary from Magisterial District Judges
- Update on the hiring process for the Auditing Coordinator position

REPORT FROM DEPT. DIRECTORS, BOARDS, AUTHORITIES, & COMMISSIONS

None.

ORDINANCES FOR FINAL PASSAGE

A. Bill No. 12 - 2013 - amending Chapter 7-207, Fire Prevention and Fire Protection, and amending Section 901.6.2 to require all records of system inspections, tests and maintenance under Section 901 of the City of Reading Fire Prevention and Protection Code to be provided to Brycer, LLC, for the electronic record management and retrieval by the Office of the Fire Marshal (**Law**) *Introduced at the February 25 regular meeting*

Councilor Marmarou moved, seconded by Councilor Reed, to enact Bill No 12-2013.

Bill No. 12-2013 was enacted by the following vote:

Yeas: – Corcoran, Goodman-Hinnershitz, Marmarou, Reed, Sterner, Waltman, Acosta, President - 7

Nays: None -0

B. Bill No. 13 - 2013 – authorizing the Mayor to execute any and all documents, including but not limited to promissory notes and security agreements, to obtain certain radios, etc., in cooperation with the County of Berks and the participation in the County-wide public safety radio system (**Law**) *Introduced at the February 25 regular meeting*

Councilor Reed moved, seconded by Councilor Corcoran, to enact Bill No 13-2013.

Bill No. 13-2013 was enacted by the following vote:

Yeas: – Corcoran, Goodman-Hinnershitz, Marmarou, Reed, Sterner, Waltman, Acosta, President - 7

Nays: None -0

~~**WITHDRAWN C. Bill No. 14 - 2013** – directing the Berks County Board of Elections to place a referendum question before City voters on the 2013 primary ballot which would address the issue of a special annual two tenths mil (.0002) tax on real estate situate in the City of Reading to aid in maintaining the Reading Public Library (**Council**) *Introduced at the February 25 regular meeting*~~

D. Bill No. 15 - 2013 - requesting the 2nd authorization to transfer \$1 M from the general fund to the trash/recycle fund (**Controller**) *Introduced at the February 25 regular meeting*

Councilor Corcoran moved, seconded by Councilor Reed, to enact Bill No 15-2013.

Managing Director Snyder noted that this is a temporary transfer and that the funds will be repaid after the Trash and Recycling bills are collected.

Bill No. 15-2013 was enacted by the following vote:

Yeas: – Corcoran, Goodman-Hinnershitz, Marmarou, Reed, Sterner, Waltman,
Acosta, President - 7
Nays: None -0

INTRODUCTION OF NEW ORDINANCES

Council President Acosta read the following ordinances into the record:

A. Ordinance - amending the Charter Board Ordinance, Section V. Enforcement, Part C Board Information regarding the Confidentiality of Charter Board Decisions (**Council Staff**)

B. Ordinance - amending Chapter 11, Housing, of the Codified Ordinances of the City of Reading, by dividing the Housing Ordinance into two parts: 1) Rental and Vacant Property and 2) Disruptive Conduct and by adjusting language in each part as necessary as attached in Exhibit A (**Law**) *To be distributed Monday*

C. Ordinance - authorizing the Mayor to execute an amended Memorandum of Understanding between the Reading Berks Association of Realtors and the City of Reading to allow CORE properties to be marketed and sold as mixed use and owner occupied rentals (**Law**)

D. Ordinance - authorizing the Mayor to execute the lease between the City of Reading and Egelman's Park Association for a portion of premises known as Egelman's Park (**Man Dir**)

E. Ordinance - authorizing the Mayor of the City of Reading, PA to execute any and all documents to effectuate the consent to the transfer of certain real estate and the related assumption of the associated loan obligation between Goggle Works Ventures, L.P., and Goggle Works, LLC (**Man Dir**)

F. Ordinance - amending the 2013 Position Ordinance for the Property Maintenance Division (**Man Dir**)

RESOLUTIONS

A. Resolution 15-2013 – reappointing Mike Zielinski to the Downtown Improvement District Authority (**Nom & Appts**)

B. Resolution 16-2013 – appointing JoAnna Seidel to the Board of Health (**Nom & Appts**)

C. Resolution 17-2013 – appointing Kathy Schorn to the Board of Health (**Nom & Appts**)

D. Resolution 18-2013 – reappointing Dennis Baver to the Fire/Building Code Board of Appeals (Nom & Appts)

Councilor Marmarou moved, seconded by Councilor Corcoran, to adopt Resolution Nos. 15-18-2013.

Councilor Marmarou and Corcoran noted the skill and ability of those being appointed and reappointed.

Resolution Nos. 15-18 -2013 was adopted by the following vote:

Yeas: – Corcoran, Goodman-Hinnershitz, Marmarou, Reed, Sterner, Waltman, Acosta, President - 7
Nays: None -0

E. Resolution 19-2013 – denying the conditional use permit at 600 N 12th St (Council Staff/Law)

Councilor Goodman-Hinnershitz moved, seconded by Councilor Reed, to adopt Resolution Nos. 19-2013.

Resolution No. 19-2013 was adopted by the following vote:

Yeas: – Corcoran, Goodman-Hinnershitz, Marmarou, Reed, Sterner - 5
Nays: Waltman, Acosta, President - 2

Councilor Marmarou moved, seconded by Councilor Reed, to adjourn the regular meeting of Council.

Respectfully submitted by Linda A. Kelleher CMC, City Clerk